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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
Office of Administrator

February 25, 1955

To: Hazel K. Stiebeling, Director
Human Nutrition and Home Economics Research

From: B. T. Shaw, Administrator

Subject: Redirection of Research in Human Nutrition and Home Economics

My responsibilities as Administrator of the Agricultural Research Service involve a continuing appraisal and evaluation of our program in order to determine whether our resources are being used for the most pressing national problems facing the Department.

After long and careful consideration I have come to the conclusion that in the area of your responsibility we should concentrate increasingly on problems of food and human nutrition. Such research is of obvious importance both to agriculture and to the general public, and the Department has been under steadily increasing pressure to contribute more largely to the solution of national problems in this field. Financial considerations make it impossible to do this and at the same time continue work in all other phases of home economics research now under way.

In consequence, I am asking you to proceed at once to shift the emphasis in research in human nutrition and home economics so as to strengthen our program in food and nutrition. I suggest that you take the following actions in implementing this request:

1. Arrange for the discontinuance of research in the Home Economics Research Branch relating to operating characteristics and performance requirements of commercially produced household equipment and appliances and the preparation of popular and semi-popular publications on the selection, care, and use of such goods.
2. Arrange for the discontinuance of research in the Home Economics Research Branch relating to selection, design, construction, maintenance, and household reconditioning of clothing and household textile articles, and the preparation of popular and semi-popular publications on these subjects.
3. Existing line projects in the areas described in (1) and (2) above should be brought to a conclusion as rapidly as feasible and results summarized. Please inform me of the funds that would be released in the fiscal year 1956 by the discontinuance of these projects, and list the staff that would be qualified for transfer to the Human Nutrition Research Branch.

By administrative action (Administrative Memorandum No. 101.1, Supplement No. 29), research in the Home Economics Research Branch relating to food economics and to family economics and management has been transferred to the Human Nutrition Research Branch. This transferred research should be closely integrated with other work of the Branch.

Research to be continued in the Home Economics Research Branch includes work on farm housing and on the properties of fabrics in relation to serviceability for use as clothing and household textiles.

Research to be continued and strengthened in the Human Nutrition Research Branch is on the relative utility and economy of foods for nutrition, and includes investigations into the composition and nutritive value of foods, human food and nutritional requirements, food consumption of individuals and households in relation to nutrition and as affected by economic conditions and other factors, food quality, home food preparation and preservation, and problems of food use in relation to household management.

B. T. Shaw



